

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

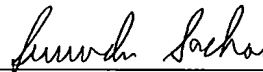
By the present preliminary amendment a new Abstract believed to be in more proper format under United States practice is submitted.

Further, claims 1-16 are canceled without prejudice and new claims 17-32 are presented for examination. New claims 17-32 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter. Further, new claims 17-32 are not believed to be more narrow in scope in any aspect in comparison with canceled claims 1-16.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



---

Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)  
SNS/rac

Surinder Sachar  
Registration No. 34,423